Russ Winge 4H

PRESS GUIDANCE DECLASSIFIED January 21, 1981 CA/OCS/EMR Rm. 4800

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MISSING AMERICAN IN EL SALVADOR

Q. In a January 19 press conference, the family of the missing American in El Salvador, John Sullivan, stated that the Embassy in San Salvador had not made a strong effort to locate their son. Does the Department have any response to this?

A The Embassy and the Department are making every effort to locate Mr. Sullivan. The Embassy has been in constant contact with the Salvadoran Government to express our concern for the welfare and whereabouts of Mr. Sullivan. These meetings have taken place at the highest levels. Ambassador Robert White has discussed Mr. Sullivan's disappearance with President Duarte. In addition, the Embassy has made inquiries of its own with persons who might have information leading to the location of Mr. Sullivan. Inquiries have been made at hospitals, clinics, detention centers in San Salvador, and with long time American residents of El Salvador. The Salvadoran Government has also made extensive inquiries. In addition, the Embassy has arranged for public radio and television announcements in an attempt to gain further information on Mr. Sullivan's whereabouts.

As of this time, neither the Embassy nor the Salvadoran Government has been able to locate Mr. Sullivan. However, these efforts are continuing. The Department believes that the Embassy is making every effort to locate Mr. Sullivan.

Q.. The Sullivan family also stated that Mr. Sullivan was being held in a Salvadoran Government detention center. Do you have any comment on this?

A. We have discussed Mr. Sullivan's whereabouts with Salvadoran authorities on numerous occasions. They have informed us that they have no knowledge of Mr. Sullivan's disappearance or whereabouts and that he is not under detention by the Salvadoran Government.

CA/PA:JWebb:tf
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Clearances
ARA/P - D Mathes
D/CT - D. Higgins
CA - R Fritts
CA/OCS - R Winge

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